

slight pain of the head, and giddiness still slighter. That night she expired. Her pulse all along had beat low and weak, and never more than sixty in a minute.

" When I was brought to open the body, I heard nothing of the pain of her head, though it was fixed and constant, and without that nothing could be more puzzling than this combination of circumstances. First the sudden slipping of her foot, and the incessant sickness which ensued, suggested the idea of hernia, but no such secret was known among her relations, and upon opening the abdomen, no hernia was found, neither open nor concealed, as in the thyroid hole.

" Next we were informed of a palpitation which had been usual with her. It appeared that she had complained chiefly about the period of her first menstruation, and before marriage. It seemed to be hysterical merely, but upon opening the thorax, we found the heart wonderfully enlarged and crammed with a dark and grumous blood.

" But next a new scene opened upon us, and this enlargement of the heart appeared to arise like that of the liver, which so often accompanies fractured skull, from the languid action of the heart and torpor of all the system in those who lie even for a few days comatose. Now for the first time I was informed that the shock of slipping her foot had caused a sudden pain of her head; that it was pointed, confined to one single spot, incessant, accompanied with vomiting or desire to vomit, and with giddiness during the night.

" Upon opening the head I found the dura mater of a most singular appearance, livid, or rather like the gizzard of a fowl, with green and changing colours. Having cut it open, the pia mater appeared like red currant jelly, with fresh coagulated blood so firmly attached to it, that it seemed as if driven into its very substance and incorporated with it. Upon cutting and tearing open the pia mater, each convolution of the brain was surrounded and separated from that next it by coagulated blood. Upon cutting into the ventricles of the brain, that of the right side was found to contain four ounces of entire and coagulated blood; the cavity at first view was like opening a ventricle of the heart; the blood, very dark, and firmly coagulated, was forced out by the pressure of the surrounding parts; the coagulum became gradually firmer and whiter, till it turned to a very firm stringy clot, which stuck in the mouth of the middle artery of the brain. Being carefully examined, it was found to be sticking firm in the mouth of the artery which had burst, as if by the separation of two of its rings. The blood which thus filled the right ventricle had also made its way down in prodigious quantity into the third and fourth ventricles, quite into the occipital hole; but the opposite ventricle it had not filled."

MATERIA MEDICA.

26. *Salicine*.—This article, which has lately been introduced into the *materia medica*, is thus described by MM. PELORZE and JULES GAY LUSSAC. Sabeine, when pure, forms white crystalline prismatic needles. It has a bitter taste, and somewhat of the odour of willow bark. One hundred parts of water dissolve 5.6 parts of salicine at 67° F.: at 212° F. it appears to dissolve in any proportion. It is equally soluble in alcohol, but ether and oil of turpentine take up no portion of it. Concentrated sulphuric acid gives it a fine red colour, like that of bi-chromate of potassa. Muriatic and nitric acids dissolve it without producing any colour. It is not precipitated from its solution by infusion of nut-galls, gelatine, neutral or sub-acetate of lead, alum, or emetic tartar. It does not saturate lime-water when boiled with it in excess: it does not dissolve oxide of lead: it fuses a little above 212° F., losing no water, and crystallizes upon cooling. If the heat be rather higher, it acquires a lemon-yellow colour, and becomes, when cold, brittle as resin.

Salicine, burnt by means of oxide of copper, yields a gas entirely absorbable by potash. The mean of two analyses gave the following as its composition.

Carbon . . . 55.491 = 2,028 proportions.

Hydrogen . . . 8.184 = 2.004 "

Oxygen . . . 36.325 = 1.000 "

Its composition may, therefore, be represented by two volumes of olfiant gas, and one volume of oxygen.—*Ann. de Chimie, Vol. XLIV.*

27. Ætherous Extract of the Semen Santonici as a Vermifuge.—The seeds and stems of the Semen santonici have long been employed for the purpose of destroying worms, but the difficulty experienced in taking it in form of powder, has been so great, that it has been much less employed in modern times than formerly. Jahn, an intelligent apothecary of Germany, has succeeded in obtaining a preparation of this substance free from the objections which have hitherto existed, and which has proved a most efficient anthelmintic in the hands of several distinguished practitioners. It is prepared as follows:—Digest four ounces of the seeds, previously bruised, in sixteen ounces of sulph. æther, for three or four days, frequently shaking the mixture: then draw off one-fifth part of the æther by distillation, and bring the residue to the consistency of an extract, by digesting it in a sand bath, with a very moderate heat. It is of a dark-brown colour, having the odour of the seeds, is bitter to the taste, and dissolves readily in æther and alcohol, but not in water. It is administered to children from one to two or three years, in doses of from one to three grains; above this age, four or five grains, and to adults, ten grains.—*Journal für Prætischen Heilkunde, von Hufeland and Osann, LXX. Band. 1, Stuck. 1830.*

28. The Ointment of Mezereon as a Dressing to Maintain a Permanent Discharge from Issues, &c.—It is well known that in many cases, where the unguent. cantharid. is employed as a dressing to a denuded surface, strangury is developed, and occasions the patient much distress. To obviate this inconvenience, Professor Hufeland has proposed to substitute the unguent. mezerei, which he thinks possesses many advantages over the other. The following is the formula which he recommends for its preparation:—R. extract spirituous, eort. mezerei, ʒj.; axung. porc. ʒix., ceræ. alb. ʒj.; salve extr. in unc. und alcoholis, adde axungiam et ceram et misce modice calore continue agitando, usque ad perfectam evaporationem alcoholis: tunc cole.—*Journal der Prætischen Heilkunde, Band. 70, Stuck. 1.*

29. New Styptic.—M. Boxafoius has communicated to the Royal Academy of Medicine, that he has succeeded with a powder composed of equal parts of rosin, carbon, and gum arabic, in arresting haemorrhage from large arteries. The author related several cases in which its application to the divided brachial artery in man, to leech bites, to the carotid artery of a horse, &c. had entirely arrested the flow of blood.—*Gazette Medicale, Feb. 1831.*

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

30. Chronic Gastritis.—The following case, with the accompanying remarks, are from a clinical lecture delivered at St. Thomas's Hospital in December last by Dr. Elliotson, one of the most judicious and sensible practitioners in London, and we solicit for them an attentive perusal. The accordance of these observations with the doctrines so often advocated in this Journal will be observed, and although we may not be prepared to admit with Dr. Elliotson that these doctrines have been long prevalent in Great Britain, yet we consider this of little importance, so that their utility and correctness be admitted.